

NEWS FROM ED MARKEY

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Massachusetts Seventh District

CONTACT: Michal Freedhoff

Mark Bayer

(202) 225-2836

Markey Urges NRC to Upgrade Security at Nuclear Reactors

NRC Action Needed to Protect Against 9/11-Style Attack

Washington, DC: Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce and Homeland Security Committees, today released comments he sent to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in support of the petition for rulemaking filed by Committee to Bridge the Gap, which calls on the NRC to permanently upgrade security at nuclear reactors to reflect the terrorist threat we face.

“The Commission should have started this rulemaking on September 12, 2001,” said Rep. Markey. “Instead, it has fought efforts to increase security every step of the way: Legislation I authored to require a permanent, public rulemaking to increase security at NRC-regulated facilities - which has been repeatedly approved on a bipartisan basis - has been repeatedly opposed by the nuclear industry and the NRC. The NRC has opted to withhold increasing amounts of information from the public about its activities and has barred access to certain of its proceedings to all but members of the nuclear industry. Most disturbingly, instead of requiring security to be at a level that is capable of defending against the sort of terrorist attack the country experienced on September 11, the NRC instead imposed new security orders that I have reviewed and consider to be inadequate to address the current threat.”

The petition for rulemaking filed by Committee to Bridge the Gap would require the Commission to conduct a public rulemaking to require protection of nuclear facilities against air attack and to upgrade the DBT to require protection against at least the number and capabilities of the September 11 attackers.

“It is disturbing that almost 3 and a half years after the attacks of September 11, the Commission has not yet taken these steps itself. I urge the Commission to do so now, and initiate the rulemaking requested by the Committee to Bridge the Gap,” Rep. Markey concluded.

For more information on Rep. Markey’s work on nuclear security, visit www.house.gov/markey